Air Service between Delhi and Mangalore

2. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to introduce either a direct or a hopping flight on Delhi-Mangalore or Delhi-Mumbai-Mangalore sector;

(b) if so, the present status of the proposal; and

(c) if the reply to part (a) above be in the negative, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Government has laid down Route Dispersal Guidelines with a view to achieve better regulation of air transport services taking into account the need for air transport services of different regions of the country. It is, however, upto the airlines to provide air services to specific places depending upon the traffic demand and commercial viability subject to compliance of Route Dispersal Guidelines issued by Government.

FDI in Aviation Sector

3. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU):
DR. AKHILESH DAS:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided in August, 2002 to open the aviation infrastructure to foreign direct investment;

(b) if so, the specific proposals cleared in this regard;

(c) whether there was a proposal to hand over the four metro airports to lessors; and

(d) if so, the progress made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) and (b) The Government of India announced the "Policy on Airport Infrastructure" in December 1997 wherein foreign equity participation is permitted upto 74% with automatic approvals and upto 100% with special permission. Moreover, Government has also approved construction of two airports of international standards at Devanahalli near Bangalore and Shamshabad near Hyderabad under majority private sector participation. These two projects will bring substantial foreign investment.

(c) and (d) On January 12, 2000 Government of India approved the proposal for restructuring the airports of Airports Authority of India (AAI) throught long-term leasing route as and when found suitable and introduction of Amendment Bill to Airports Authority of India Act, 1994 to enable AAI to lease and airport properties to private investors. Accordingly, a Bill was also introduced in the parliament on November 30, 2000 for creating an enabling provision in the Airports Authority of India Act, 1994 providing for leasing of airports. The Bill was referred to the Department related Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture on February 15, 2001. The Committee examined the Bill in details and tabled its report in Parliament on November 21, 2002. The Committee has recommended that a comprehensive Bill may be brought forward incorporating all its recommendations and this issue is being examined in the Ministry.

Expenditure on airport security

4. SHRI RAJU PARMAR:
SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that expenditure on airports' security in the country has gone up by more than 25 per cent in the past one year;

(b) if so, what are the details of the amounts spent on airports' security by various agencies namely Airports Authority of India, and Central Industrial Security Force, airport-wise; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to minimise the expenditure on airports' security in the years to come?